

REMARKS

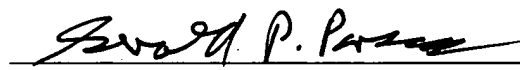
The allowance of claims 5 – 8 and 14 – 17 are noted with appreciation. Rejected claim 19 (and thus also its dependent claims 20 – 22) is being amended to additionally specify that the feedback stage includes a linear amplifier. Transistor X3 of the circuit diagram of Figure 7 of the present application forms such an amplifier. This is novel over cited U.S. patent no. 5,646,573 (Bayruns et al.) over which claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Bayruns et al. show a diode or a diode/resistor circuit as the feedback of their amplifier, not an active circuit including an amplifier. U.S. patent no. 5,612,810 (Inami et al.), cited with Bayruns et al. to reject the dependent claims 20 – 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), also fails to suggest use of this type of feedback circuit.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 19 – 22 is therefore respectfully requested. It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and an early indication thereof is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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